

Wind in the Willows

Character Breakdowns (*in order of appearance*)

Portia (*supporting role*)

Portia is a feisty, fearless and adventurous young otter who has a habit of wandering off in search of food. She opens the show, so needs to have a strong, confident presence and instantly engage the audience. She is kidnapped by the Wild Wooders and held captive, being fattened up for them to eat. Despite being trapped she holds her nerve and bravely fights back to enable her escape.

This role will be taken by a girl.

Mole (*leading role*)

Mole is young, innocent and full of wonder at the world. He has no real idea of the world outside of his cosy underground home but he quickly learns when he meets up with Rat and agrees to stay with him on the river. Mole can be impulsive: for instance, the first time Rat takes Mole on a boat, Mole tries to take the oars and row despite not knowing how. And later, he becomes so frustrated that Rat won't take him into the Wild Wood that he decides to go there alone. As Mole realises how much he still has to learn, he accepts Rat's attempts to mentor him and becomes increasingly loyal to Rat.

Mole decides that he loves life on the river, and that the river is his home. He and Rat return to Mole's underground home once, and while it's a fun experience, it doesn't change Mole's mind about where he belongs.

By the time Mole meets Toad, he too is interested in adventure and exploration, but he's far more mature about it than Toad is.

Our preference is that this role will be taken by a boy with a broken voice but if you feel you could do it justice then please do audition – we are open to suggestions!

Rat (*leading role*)

Rat is the first creature that Mole meets on the riverbank. He lives in a neat, well-furnished home built into the riverbank and loves nothing more than being out on his boat. Though Rat is wealthy and respected, he's extremely modest and is willing to generously help anyone who needs it. So, when Mole shows up across the river, he doesn't hesitate to take Mole on a picnic and then invite Mole to be his roommate so he can teach him how to live on the river. He teaches Mole how to boat, swim, and safely navigate the Wild Wood.

Rat has an extreme preference for a quiet, idyllic river life; he sees cars as rudely and violently intruding on the life he's built for himself. However, Rat also wants to please his friends and hates disappointing people, so he often gets drawn into situations he'd rather not, such as when Toad convinces him and Mole to join him in a caravan journey. Though very practical and always well prepared for any situation, Rat is also a romantic. When he's not boating or picnicking, Rat is often talking about how much he loves his life on the river.

Our preference is that this role will be taken by a boy with a broken voice but if you feel you could do it justice then please do audition – we are open to suggestions!

Mrs Otter (supporting role)

Mrs Otter is one of Rat, Mole, Badger and Toad's friends. She's not wealthy like the others and the class difference is noticeable in her accent and appearance.

She is confident and headstrong and is always willing to support and protect her friends. Mrs Otter is also the first to know about any gossip circulating on the riverbank. She has a young daughter named Portia who is far too adventurous for Mrs Otter's liking!

This role will be played by a girl.

Mr Toad (leading role)

One of the show's lead characters, Toad is conceited, selfish, and extremely wealthy. He lives in Toad Hall, a grand country residence on the river. Toad abuses his wealth and his power - he's known for picking up expensive hobbies and then casting them aside when something more interesting catches his eye.

At first, Toad's friends see him as annoyingly selfish and boastful, but they see little harm in how he lives his life. This changes, though, when Toad is introduced to cars. Toad is a terrible driver - he crashes multiple cars over the course of the show, which causes him to get in trouble with the police. Being behind the wheel causes Toad to be overcome with feelings of anger and power—all he cares about while driving is his own enjoyment.

Loud, opinionated and obsessed with anything newer, bigger and faster, Toad nevertheless endears himself to his loyal friends through his generosity of spirit.

Our preference is that this role will be taken by a boy with a broken voice but if you feel you could do it justice then please do audition – we are open to suggestions!

Sheryl Stoat (*supporting role*)

Sheryl Stoat is the leader of the stoats and plots alongside the Chief Weasel.

She has a wild and twisted sense of fun and thoroughly enjoys capturing and fattening Portia to eat. This is more than just a job for her!

Sheryl comes from a poor background and is incredibly impressed with the wonders of Toad Hall. She is determined never to return to being a downtrodden outcast from society.

Chief Weasel (*supporting role*)

The chief weasel is the villain of the piece, along with his sidekick, Cheryl Stoat.

He is jealous and resentful of Toad's wealth and luxurious life and seizes the opportunity to sentence Toad to goal and take his place in Toad Hall.

Chief Weasel is a charismatic leader, whipping his minions up to do his bidding and enjoys the feeling of being bad.

The stoats and weasels are the underbelly of society, penniless and scapegoated and they have long since decided to embrace their reputation.

Our preference is that this role will be taken by a boy with a broken voice but if you feel you could do it justice then please do audition – we are open to suggestions! If this were to be played by a girl, we would then look to mirror the casting by having a girl take on Cheryl Stoat.

Badger (*leading role*)

Badger is a wealthy older gentleman who lives as a recluse in the heart of the Wild Wood, in an underground home.

Among those who live along the riverbank or in the Wild Wood, Badger is universally respected and has a sense of authority and gravitas. No one dares go against what he says, and even smaller, poorer animals like and respect Badger and trust that if they ever need a warm meal or refuge from the cold, Badger will gladly help them.

Badger is so respected in the community that he can effectively do whatever he likes. Rat explains that Badger is extremely shy and isn't at all interested in extending or accepting dinner invitations; in fact, he prefers to keep to himself.

Badger was friends with Toad's father, so he takes a great deal of interest in Toad's bad behaviour and leads the effort to stage an intervention when Toad becomes obsessed with cars. Later, Badger masterminds the strategy to retake Toad Hall from the weasels and stoats and save Portia.

Our preference is that this role will be taken by a boy with a broken voice but if you feel you could do it justice then please do audition – we are open to suggestions!

Gaolers Daughter (*supporting, featured role*)

The Gaoler's Daughter takes over guarding Toad from her father when Toad is in prison. She's a pretty and kind young human woman who likes animals and feels sorry for Toad. She helps him escape by devising a plan to disguise Toad as her Aunt, who is a washerwoman.

The company member playing this role will also be part of the ensemble.

This role will be played by a girl.

Lesser Weasel (*supporting role*)

This role is not gender specific – the Lesser Weasel wants to be the Chief but doesn't have the followers... (yet...) they are sly and sneaky and seek to undermine the Chief Weasel. The audition dialogue is the same as those said by the Chief Weasel so you will need to deliver it with this in mind.

Magistrate

This role is not gender specific - The Magistrate believes in truth and justice but is also seeking a quiet life. They are easily fooled and do not realise that their jury is made up of Stoats and Weasels.

Car Driver

This role is not gender specific - the car driver is rightly proud of their shiny new motor car and only too happy to show it off to a friendly toad (dressed as a washerwoman). They are enraged to realise they have been tricked and their beautiful new vehicle has been stolen by the shameless Toad.